

THE CHINA MAIL.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1866.

DEATHS.

On the 7th September, at Hollywood, Gloucestershire, after a long and painful illness, Emily, the affectionate wife of Sir John P. Davis, Bart., &c., late Governor of Hongkong.

At Hongkong, on the 24th October, JAMES SMITH, Clerk to Messrs Dent & Co.

At Hongkong, at midnight, on the 30th October, 1866, HARRY BARROWS, Infant Son of Fredk. Sowley Haffman, aged 30 days.

On Board H.M.S. *Mermaid*, on the 24th October, JOSEPH GREGORY, Royal Marine H.M.S. *Forrester*.

At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on the 26th October, GEORGE FRASER, Seaman, unemployed.

At Hongkong, on the 26th October, while working aloft on board the Hamburg barque *Bravo*, ALEXANDER SQUIRRELL, fell over board and was drowned, aged 21 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

One of the most disastrous fires with which Hongkong has been visited since the great conflagration in 1851, took place Tuesday night. It commenced about 6.30 p.m. in an unoccupied house opposite the Brit. Hotel, Queen's Road West, and gradually extended thence to the Praya and in a westerly direction as far as Mr Riach's timber yard, the whole mass of houses—over two hundred in number—being completely gutted. The fire appears to have been the work of an incendiary as a pile of stuff in the centre of a room had been ignited, and the attention of Inspector da Silva and some soldiers passing at the time was called to it before even the whole of the room in which it originated was consumed. No water could however be procured and in the few minutes which necessarily elapsed between its discovery and the arrival of a supply it had spread to the adjoining houses whose flimsily built inflammable verandahs offered every encouragement to the flames. With praiseworthy promptitude the police were at once despatched to the scene. A strong detachment of troops was immediately marched to the ground with engines, and armed sentries were placed at every available corner to repress riot, while a detachment of the Ceylon rifles consisting of 50 rank and file, 2 Sergeants and one native officer under the command of Captain Macdonald and Ensign Colless was despatched to the mint to guard against any attempt at looting that establishment. Shortly after the fire had begun to assume alarming proportions, His Excellency the Governor and his Aide de camp arrived at the spot, and not content with directing others gave manual help encouraging every one to the utmost exertion. It is impossible to speak in too high terms of the zeal and energy displayed by every European present. The navy was in no way behind the sister service. Every ship present sent its fire brigade and Jack rendered good aid. The European prisoners were also marched out of the Gaol and manned a powerful engine in good style. Afloat, the P. & O. Company's steam fire engine was brought into play and till one o'clock A.M., proved most useful being ably backed by the personal efforts of the employees of that company. The further extension of the fire to the westward of the point we have mentioned was mainly prevented by the effective way in which the Royal Engineers blew up a corner house next to Mr Riach's wood yard while a similar service was performed by another detachment somewhat more to the Eastward. Had Mr Riach's yard caught fire the loss would have been infinitely greater than it was. The P. & O. Company's coal, amounting to some thousands of tons, was lying to the Eastward of the yard and had it begun to blaze nothing could have been done to extinguish it.

The scene, looking down the principal street gutted, was of a description to which the pen of a reporter can do but faint justice. It presented the appearance of a magnificent furnace blazing on both sides, and a quarter of a mile in length. Every now and then some oil store caught fire bursts of vivid flame would dart upwards actually illuminating the Peak, and reflecting their lurid light on the vessels in the harbour. At 3 A.M. the fire burst out with renewed fury, and it was soon found that the engine jets were but mere squirts to stop the progress of the flames, and, very properly, attention was chiefly devoted to pulling down, and blowing up houses at different points. It is reported that three Chinese were severely injured by the falling in of a wall and it is suspected that some were killed. The loss of life if any is however as yet uncertain. Messrs Quoy Acheong and Wobeng are we believe the chief losers by the fire. We learn that their property was only partially insured. We may add that it is stated on good authority that natives were seen running about with firebrands and deliberately setting fire to houses which the flames had left untouched.

Two interesting public cases have occupied the attention of Hongkong during the past week. In the one a person named Lobscheid and the Court interpreter Ho Aloy were charged by the Acting Superintendent of Police with complicity in certain alleged coolie kidnapping operations which it is believed have come to light. The Charge was withdrawn by the prosecutor

the evidence given in court not supporting the information received, and the case was accordingly dismissed. In the second case certain Chinamen are charged with false imprisonment and violation of the ordinances in connection with the same subject. They have been committed to take their trial at the Supreme Court. Full particulars will be found in other portions of our columns.

We are glad to state that the missing cutter of the *Osprey*, with the crew of 12 men and the master, arrived here safely on Saturday morning, in a Chinese junk. It appears that after losing sight of the *Osprey*, and beating about against strong winds and currents, they made one of the islands in the St John Group, 50 miles south of Macao. The mandarin there treated them well, supplying them with provisions, and sending them to Hongkong in a junk.

Ten cent pieces are according to a contemporary being coined daily at the Mint. Nearly a million have been turned out already and preparations are being made for an issue of pieces of 20 cents each. Forty thousand is, we have been informed, the number of the smaller coins the Mint machinery is capable of turning out daily and from 18 to 20 per cent is the estimated profit on the manufacture of this class of coin, which is not, intrinsically, of the value for which it passes current by law.

The Acting Viceroy of the Two Kwang, Jui-lin, has at length received his actual appointment to the post, and will therefore vacate the office of Tartar General, which he has hitherto held. During the two years that Jui-lin has acted as Viceroy, he has gained favourable opinions for a liberal disposition towards foreigners. He is the only Tartar holding high office in the Province, but even his present promotion puts him on a lower grade than he formerly occupied, having been a member of the Imperial cabinet.

The weather has now become cool, and the festival time of Hongkong is approaching. We may congratulate ourselves on having passed one of the most healthy summers with which Hongkong has blessed for some years.

By a paragraph in the *Daily Press* we learn that all the European residents at Tai-wan-fao behaved with the utmost kindness to the shipwrecked sailors who were thrown upon their hands after the late typhoon off the Formosa coast. The *Press* was particularly requested by one of those who suffered at the time to do them honor publicly, by recording their bountiful hospitality.

JAPAN.

Japan papers to the 16th instant are to hand. The *Overland Mail* states—

The death of the late Shogoon has been officially proclaimed. Stotsbashi, second son of the late prince of Mito and prime minister to the defunct Shogoon, was named heir by his dying master. He has not yet, however, received his commission from the Mikado. We hear from authentic sources that he has himself taken no steps towards assuming the dignity and it is reported that he has announced his intention of deferring the question until the conclusion of the war with Chiosiu, when he will solicit the votes of the Daimios for the young Owari, a boy of eight years old and legitimately the next in succession to the Shogoonate. This is by no means improbable, as Stotsbashi is perfectly well aware that, at the present juncture, the accession of another minor is almost out of the question and he will, therefore, while disarming opposition by this move, stand a good chance of having the Shogoonate pressed upon him by the great Council and the Mikado, and succeed peaceably to that high office. It is, on the other hand, however, quite possible that a change in the whole system of the government of the country may take place and that the Mikado may resume the command of his own armies. The war continues, but Chiosiu's troops have been twice routed.

The opening of Osaka, now imminent, and certainly not to be deferred beyond January 1868 will of course bring the representatives of foreign powers into closer connection with the potentate whom we have lately discovered to be the real sovereign of the country and it is, therefore, quite possible that this event may initiate a new era in the history of Japan. It is otherwise difficult to account for the undeniable fact of the present *interregnum*, for which certainly the necessity of finishing the war with Chiosiu is not a sufficient reason. It appears more likely than ever, by the way, that this war will have to be ended by the Shogoon's representatives accepting the terms offered to them by their enemy, which we detailed last mail.

The *Harald* says—Stotsbashi is shewing the utmost activity in every department. He is getting his army into fine order and concentrating his forces. Ogasawari-Iki, no-kami has joined the Tycoon with his contingent, and decrees have been issued respecting Chiosiu. We are still, however, led to believe that the Tycoon earnestly desires peace, and that his great energy is exhibited to this end.

An embassy is about to start by the next mail (English or French we know not), from Stotsbashi to the Emperor of Russia. The Envoy of the Tycoon is Koida Yamate no Kami, Governor of Hakodadi, and a newly appointed governor of Foreign Affairs. He takes a portrait of Stotsbashi to the Emperor, and a letter, stating that he would have desired to have seen the Czar in person, but as his affairs here are so very urgent, he sends his minister who will present to His Majesty his picture. The object is to define boundaries and arrange the Saghalien difficulties.

Kamakatsu Oomi-no-kami, long governor of the Japanese College at Benten—is appointed a Governor of Foreign Affairs, but will continue to reside principally in Yokohama. We rejoice in this appointment, as his acquaintance with the lights and shades of European character renders him capable of forming a more correct judgment than most of his compeers are able to do; and as he is a man of known integrity, high-minded and very intelligent, the best results may be expected.

Private advices state that the Governor of Nagasaki is so much afraid that Chiosiu's men will come there that he has sent his wife away to Yeddo, but it is thought there is not much fear of danger in Nagasaki, so long as foreigners are in the place.

What is known as the Dollar question is beginning to excite public attention: that is to say, that all—merchants, storekeepers, and private individuals—are rising against the attempts of the Bank compradors to squeeze us, in some cases to the extent of 7 per cent, in taking coin which, though perfectly good and of full weight, they pretend does not happen to suit the fancy of their delicate ears and fingers. What makes this particularly unbearable is, that it has, over and over again been proved, that these very shroffs have issued the identical specie from their own treasuries. Driven at last by necessity to yield to this imposition, holders of dollars have to sell them at a discount, and we may mention that one Bank Manager has openly stated that he has bought up such coin in considerable quantities at a difference of 3 per cent, for shipment to Hongkong, where, at all events, they will pass at par, if they do not command a slight premium. The Chamber of Commerce has discussed the subject several times without effect, and a public meeting is now spoken of, to devise means to redress the grievance. The difficulty will be solved, we may remark, by the establishment of the new mint, so long promised, but when that is to commence operations, no one knows.

A second edition of a Dictionary of the English and Japanese languages, compiled by Japanese Scholars, has been published at Yeddo. The preface to it is exceedingly modest. "The first edition (says Mr. Horikosi Kamenosky, the editor) of this work, published in the second year of the Nengo Bunkiu, being entirely sold out, I was ordered to revise and correct it for a second edition. But, every thing being done very precipitately and hastily, it left me no sufficient time, but to correct some considerable typographical errors and mistakes in the translation and to add two tables, showing the conjugation of the irregular verbs and explaining the signs and abbreviations mostly used." He acknowledges the assistance of learned friends, but "notwithstanding all this, there will be found a good many faults as yet, and I request, that he who may find any will be so kind as to indicate them to me." This second edition seems to have been very successful, an edition of 1,000 copies having been sold within 5 days.

BORNEO AND ITS RESOURCES.

We resume our notice of this interesting island. The principal rivers of Borneo are the Koti and Banjerassing, in the Dutch possessions; the Rejang, Batan-Lupar, Sarawak, and Brui in Sarawak; the Druni and Limbang in Central Borneo; and the Abai, Tampasuk, Kina-Batangan in Ambong and Maroodu. There are hundreds of smaller ones but mostly unfit for navigation, owing to the shallowness of their bars over which the surf breaks freely, and which bars seldom have more than nine feet of water on them at neap tides; some are fresh like the Kimanis and Tawaran, the water of which is drinkable at all stages of tide two fathoms inside of the breakers, and it is asserted that canoes have been filled with water from the Tawaran, pure and unmixed, half a mile at sea. Others are merely salt water creeks, stretching for scores of miles into the country and lined with impenetrable mangrove jungle. There are no good harbors in Sarawak or the Dutch possessions, but Victoria Harbor in Labuan, and Gaya Bay in the Kingdom proper, are excellent harbors, with good anchorage, plenty of water, and well sheltered from either monsoon. It has been estimated that Gaya Bay would accommodate the whole English navy with a safe and secure anchorage. Port Raffles, or Cool Point (as it is generally termed), at Labuan, though affording ample shelter from the S.W. monsoon, lies entirely open to the N.E. and is very unsafe during the prevalence of this latter monsoon. Ambong and Maroodu abound in well sheltered harbors, the principal of which are Ambong, Ouseoukan, Maroodu,

Lubuk and Darvell Bays and Sandakan harbor. The U. S. S. *Wachusett* lay in Ambong Bay for 24 hours, and the report of her officers on its qualifications for a safe and commodious anchorage is very favorable. Borneo is mountainous throughout its entire length, though more so from Barram point to the extreme northern point, but the magnificent mountain of Kina-Balu, 13,600 feet high, towers proudly above all the rest as a Brobdingnagian chieftain lords it over the lowly islands. This noble peak is distinctly visible in a clear day over 60 miles at sea, possesses rich stores of minerals in its mighty womb, and is destined at no very distant day, to contain the favorite shrine of Hygeia, to which all her eager votaries from the lower parts of the China Sea will hasten to pay their humble adoration. Mr Low, the Colonial Treasurer of Labuan, whose explorations in Borneo, and valuable contributions to the cause of Science therefrom, have inseparably linked his name with the scientific history of the island, ascended this mountain several times, and was the first to introduce to the notice of the botanical world the magnificent *Nepenthes* or Pitcher plant, a flower peculiar to this mountain; of all the species the *Nepenthes Lowii* is the loveliest and most graceful. The lowest temperature registered by him was 36° 5, Fahrenheit, upon the summit. A Sanatorium on the Mare-Pare Spur, at about 4,800 feet elevation, would be a most delightful resort for the debilitated and fever stricken patients of the East. The climate is delightful, the average of temperature is, at daylight 56°; at midday 75°, and at sunset 63°.

The principal products peculiar to Borneo as far as yet discovered, are the fine white birds' nests, baru camphor, gum damar. The entire supplies of the former comestible are now derived from this island; inferior qualities, mixed with feathers, are still brought from other parts of the Archipelago, but the fine quality of nests is Bornean. The baru camphor is too well known in the markets here, to require particular description, but the uninitiated will form an idea of its strength and fine quality, when they learn that while Formosan, or the ordinary camphor of commerce, is worth in this market some \$20 per picul, Bornean camphor sells readily at \$36 per out. The gum damar abounds, is of a very clear, white color, and differs in superiority of quality from the ordinary damar of the Malay peninsula. The other articles of export are gutta percha, Indian rubber, gun Benjamin, rattans, catbush, bark, sagu, pepper, wax, cotton, rice, tortoise shells, pearls, beche de mer, ivory, tobacco, spices, mahogany, lignum vitae, (a starling species) Puaon and camphor wood.

Nothing but the unconquerable intolerance of the natives prevents this Country from being the centre of a traffic, as far superior to that of China and Singapore as a mountain surpasses in magnitude a mole hill. The decline of Northern Borneo as a great commercial emporium, dates from the expulsion and extermination of the Chinese, who once possessed and civilized nearly the whole of the Northern sea Coast, both on the Eastern and Western shores. Their own arrogance and presumption led to their overthrow, and it is estimated that upwards of 60,000 perished under the creeses and parangs of the warlike Malays, whom they had endeavored to brow beat and oppress. Traces of their occupation are every where found, and even the language and religion linger among the inhabitants of the interior. The Chinese can only exist out of China in peace, as a servile race: if allowed any ascendancy, or even equality with other races, murder and rapine at once assume the sway. Witnesses the districts of their own country, where the yoke of the Tartar conqueror is in the least degree lightened or becomes weakened, the Taeping or Nienfi springs into existence at once. Witness the Chinese insurrection at Saravak, in 1857, when Rajah Brooke was reduced to such extremity, as to be compelled to swim a small river to save his life; and nothing but the opportune arrival of the Borneo Company's steamer saved the European population from extermination; nor was it until upwards of 7,000 Chinese had fallen under the spears and stumps of his gallant Dyak warriors, that he was enabled to recover his authority and drive the remnant of the rebels across the frontier into Sambas. Witness Hongkong, where since the introduction of Exeter Hall ethics, and the decoration of the seats of Justice with festoons of red tape, the public streets at certain periods are tabooed to the European unprovided with a revolver, and where pirates' craft are fitted out, with the scarcely-concealed intention of preying upon the peaceful trader leaving the harbor, and returning exposed, unchecked, and the fruits of their raid publicly in the bazaars for sale, still stained with the blood of their murdered victims. No! the Chinese are neither pleasant neighbors nor good colonists, and better far that the sensual doctrines of Mahomet or the rude creed of the honest unbeliever should prevail in Borneo, than the polished barbarism and refined wickedness of the Buddhist should hold sway. The Moslem and the Idolater may be honestly converted from the error of their ways, a votary of Buddha seldom or never.

MITCHELL'S MARITIME REGISTER informs us that the French papers publish most lamentable accounts of the condition of China. "Even in the Imperial city of Peking," say they, "the most frightful crimes are committed with impunity. Villains stupefy their victims with drugged drinks, then carry them outside the city to hiding places unknown to the police, and unless the families of the captives will offer a ransom, the captives are put to death. Elsewhere the empire is a prey to brigandage of the worst kind, while the Chinese waters swarm with pirates."

THE SPARK AND THE COOLIE TRADE.

A FEW days since our attention was directed to certain slanderous Chinese placards which have been extensively posted in Canton, and have also been distributed in Hongkong. They relate to alleged kidnappers on board the Steamer *Spark*, now running between Hongkong and Macao. We deemed it our duty to communicate with the owners of that vessel, and at their request publish below the translations with which we have been furnished. They are thoroughly convinced of the necessity of dealing openly with accusations such as these placards contain, and it will therefore be well to state some circumstances in connection with the case.

It is undoubtedly true that coolies for the supply of the Macao trade are carried by the steamers running to that port. To this fact neither the owners or officers of those vessels can shut their eyes, but so long as they come as bona fide passengers they are powerless to interfere. A party, say twenty five, in charge of a crimp, make their appearance on board as passengers. In the hurry of embarkation it is impossible to stop each man and enquire of him "are you a crimp?" or "are you a kidnapped coolie?" Their presence on board had, however, even so early as 1857, been found so detrimental to the interests of the legitimate traffic of the *Spark*, on account of respectable Chinese refusing to herd with the oftentimes dirty, diseased and foul-smelling vagabonds in charge of the crimps, that their owners directed that an additional charge of one dollar per head should be made for each Chinaman identified as or known to be an "Emigrant." Somewhat later the charge was raised to two dollars, and the captain of the vessel was instructed to refuse carrying them when practicable, the fare for ordinary passengers at first being 25 cents, subsequently raised to 60 cents. The owners were remonstrated with by some of the Macao coolie brokers at this charging for the men consigned to them, and were told in reply, "that they did not want emigration coolies on board; they interfered with legitimate passenger traffic, and it paid far better to have some two or three hundred at the low rate of 25 cents than a few at a high rate, and that if they would persist in sending them on board they must in self defence be charged exorbitant rates." Since the issue of the second placard orders have been given to raise the rate until it reaches a prohibitive amount.

We are authorized to state most positively that in no way whatever have the owners of the *Spark* been personally interested in the coolie traffic. They have never transferred coolies direct to any ship, or in any way afforded facilities other than those open to all in the way of procuring landing boats, &c. So long as the vessel is employed in passenger traffic so long must any, able to pay, be admitted on board, and in numerous cases "emigrants" are not identified as such, but pass for the ordinary rates. On some occasions coolies who have turned out to have been intended for the barracks have been unable to pay their passage money and have been prevented from leaving the ship, it being the rule to carry back to Canton any who attempt to defraud the steamer. They have been liberated by coolie brokers, and on its being discovered that they are intended "emigrants" a heavy fare has been exacted. This of course, in the eyes of the Chinese, seems to make the steamer an accomplice in the practice. But it should be stated that any coolies refusing to leave the steamer of their own free will are carried back to Canton.

The foregoing information has been freely given to us by the owners of the *Spark* in order that the public may judge of the merits of the case. We can only suggest that in order to stop the passage of such coolies in future, they be charged, (when identified as such) at a rate absolutely prohibitive. This we have reason to believe it is now intended to do.

PLACARD No. 1.

On Monday and Wednesday of last month (Oct 1st and 3rd) the steamer *Spark* running from Canton to Macao, entered upon an unrighteous course of conduct. The whole boat-load of passengers were forcibly compelled to become "pigs."

Having come to anchor outside of the "Chicken's Neck" 鷄頸, they were transferred to a (coolie) ship. This is a veritable fact and not a vague rumor. Hereafter all persons taking passage by the *Spark* for Macao are earnestly besought to be careful, and not allow themselves to become victims of her ruinous practice.

A hastily written but earnest statement.

PLACARD No. 2.

"If he can bear to do this, (what may be not bear to do?)

"At present the foreign Devils at Macao are engaged in traffic in men, and that too at remarkably high rates. This is called 'selling Pigs.' There are several hundred coolie establishments at Macao, and this year they are desirous of purchasing 150,000 men—so it is said. They have therefore sent out several hundred 'Crimps' to go into all quarters, and make purchases, offering 50 dollars per man. The purpose is to sell them away to foreign countries, to be engaged in subdividing desert wastes by farming, and general cultivation of the land—thus reducing the coolies to the position of beasts of draught and beasts of burden. They receive only two meals of coarse rice per day, without a single cash of remuneration. Thus pined they cannot fly away, and there is no day for return to their native land. A little reflection shows that, if this business was carried on openly and above board, no one would be willing to go. Hence a fraudulent plan has been devised to delude men, and the more these schemes have increased in number, the more deceptive has become their character and the more various their forms—their changes and transformations being without limit. To such an extent have these horrible machinations been carried, that friend betrays friend, a relative his kinsman, and a man his own brother, such villainy being beyond comprehension; it only remains to exhort all to be strictly on their guard at all times and under all circumstances. Old woman too have been employed as secret agents to

carry out these nefarious designs. These kidnappers at first approached their victims, by stating that at Macao work and employment were to be found in abundance and wages ranged from 8 to 10 dollars per month. A large number of persons, destitute of means and out of employment, having heard this hastened thither, each striving to be first and fearing to be last. But who knows that, having once entered the baracoons, they will ever come out from thence during their lives! They never return to their homes. Father and mother and wife and children look for them until their eyes are pierced through with watching, and, not knowing whether they be dead or are still alive, their hearts are, as it were, thrust through with a sword. The anxiety and toil of the parents can never be repaid by the filial attendance of the son; and on whom shall the wife and the children of tender years depend? After they (the coolies) have been forced into the Devils' ships, many cry unto Heaven and call upon Earth for deliverance. The hearts of those who hear, are overwhelmed with grief; and the eyes of those who behold, run down with tears.

At present when the Passage Boats arrive at Macao, the foreigners in many tens of small boats, each of which hoists a small white flag, surround them and receive the "pigs." Hence it is known that each establishment must send out many "crimps," who kidnap men on all sides. But the greatest outrages are perpetrated by the steamer *Spark*. As 25 cts. fare is only taken from each passenger, many poor people, seeing that the passage is so cheap, go to Macao by the *Spark* in order to find employment. The people on the steamer, observing the mean habits of these persons, drive them into the hold and afterwards make way with them as "pigs." The last few men and trips have all been of this character. Of this there are numbers of eye-witnesses. If in this falsely accused steamer, may I be doubly hated of Heaven. How many men have thus been ruined, is not known. If all villages would immediately arrest every known kidnapper, and hand him over to the mandarins for condign punishment, ruin would be diverted from ten thousand times ten thousand men.

It is earnestly desired that all persons, who sympathize with the spirit of the above, would print many more copies thereof and have them widely circulated, and thus obtain unbounded virtue and desert."

THE KIDNAPPING CASE.

The rules of evidence upon which public opinion proceeds are defective, if tried by a legal test, and its decisions therefore are occasionally capricious and unjust; but we do not anticipate that any hesitation will be felt in accepting as very valid testimony the brief description given by Mr Pollard, Q.C. of the mechanism and organization of the traffic in coolies, as carried on here in the name of the Dutch government. The learned counsel is remarkably clear upon the point. Of the prisoners committed for trial on a charge equivalent to that of kidnapping, one he says "has entered into a contract with the Dutch government,"—a contract for the recruitment of emigrants to Dutch colonies. It is only fair to state Mr Pollard's opinion that "there is not the slightest evidence to convict" this contractor; but, as he also says, "this is a matter in which the law of evidence must be applied with strictness," and there will be an opportunity afforded at the next Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court of ascertaining the worth of the learned counsel's opinion on "the matter." In the meantime we may remark, he describes the second prisoner as being a "sub-contractor," under this contract, and admits that there is a *prima facie* case against him. Now the conclusion of the contractor-in-chief with his "sub," in the cases upon which criminal has been obtained, was indisputably established, for, (says the learned counsel) "he went to the house of the second prisoner, who is a sub-contractor—he went in his chair [so precise was Mr Pollard in his description], to know if any more emigrants had come in during the week, and if there were any ready to be shipped." Whether the "strict law of evidence" will prevail at the criminal trial is a question that need not be asked, but that the magistrate was right, under the circumstances correctly detailed by the learned counsel for the defence, in committing the contractor-in-chief for trial, is unquestionable. There is another point of connection with the case, on the part of the Chinese Dutch coolie contractor, that justified the magistrate in committing him for trial. When he was encountered by Mr Tompachy in the house where the coolies were (as the prosecution alleges) confined, he gave that gentleman a paper printed in the Chinese language, of which the following has been published as a correct translation:—

"Bearers of these have been engaged to collect Emigrants for the Kwong-Tung-fat Company at Hongkong. The Emigrants are to be shipped at Hongkong under the supervision of the local Government and the Netherlands Consul, and to proceed to Dutch Guiana, where they will be well treated. Having formerly been living in the Sanon and Kweishin Districts, I certify this to be the truth. W. Lonscham, Victoria, Hongkong, 22nd September, 1866."

How is it possible to resist the conclusion that a good *prima facie* case of complicity is made out against the prisoner? He might have acted as he did in the innocent belief that he was not violating any law in forcibly restraining the human beings he had—according to Mr Pollard—contracted to supply for Dutch Guiana; but *ignorantia juris non excusat*—the offence was *prima facie* complete and criminal necessarily followed.

The public will now be able to learn the mode of operations by which coolies are secured for Dutch Guiana. The Dutch ordinance for regulating the introduction of "free laborers" into Surinam we presume governs this emigration to Guiana, and we find it provided in that ordinance that "The recruitment must take place under the immediate control of the Dutch consul at the place where the indenture is

made." We are now Bosman, the acting I would not approve of which coolies are obtained. Such a system instructions, as it must personally; but we are Tuesday, from his ten magistrate's bench, he a suspicion in his mind issued to Chinese "bear used in conformity with and that the recruitment for Dutch service had purely voluntary character renders the coolie trade needless that we should Bosman's duty is, as fident that he will pr from being sullied by less crimes.

We cannot conclude by way of comment Lobscheid. He was an accomplice in the all the "contractor," the and three other Chinamen omitted for trial. The sustain the charge, we Let it be clearly understood coincide with the bench made out; but we care it it should not be use of his well-known care that it should not therance of improper doubt with good reason much influence among it is evident from the to the bench on Tuesday by persons of whom objects of which hee Thus, the certificate into the hands of one are committed for many of those papers whom? We ask the feely fair spirit and appears probable, or ous confidence of Mr that the worst of certificates as freely agent. "When (s his paper read to tish West India En ated and being call influence, (being the Government Schools ed H. E. the Govern any objection to my issuing a notice to them that in British be free agents." H. E. jection, but was plea succeeding." Exactly ference to British co be served by crimps? was slightly in error become a "free agent ny until he has ful The "notice" Mr for the Dutch Govern liable to abuse from exempted under the emigration to British in issuing it is no thropic one, and of interest in promoti Dutch or any other care for the welfare and he does not, ly, wilfully connive reduces in Chin honors of western sh is altogether power curse, for while it is and generous minds, those whose harden quires restraint P strengthened by the penalties, and we ho persevere in the o entered until the Chinese emigrants possibility on this suming, however, bound to, that Mess & Co. and Mr Lobs cent of any unlawf tion with the coolie have had immedi one, be he English, man, can legally be ment without a sp Registrar General, su d to Messrs Bo or any of their ager This is a matter w ed up, and we bo take the steps neces gimate curiosity imperative demand

TELEGRAPH.

We learn by the stant complaints of the slovenly v via Kiechts are for Complaints at this be equally frequ announcement vice is in contempt while to enquire despite the grand art, practically no advantages to be d correct telegram at all, receive but a sm from either the C until it becomes e received will be a sent. The causes mitted are not fa telegram, for instat the hands of som whom according one half understa some applies to German, though wi with French being post of agent. T of partially or enti age sent, being p of twenty di mitting it only one

nefarious designs. These first approached their victim at Macao work and were to be found in abundance from 8 to 10 a.m. A large number of means and out of hearing this hastened arriving to be first and fear. But who knows that, entered the barracks, they out from thence during any never return to their and mother and wife and then until their eyes are with watching, and, not they be dead or are still as, are, were, thrust forward. The anxiety and toil never be repaid by the of the son; and on wife and the children of end! After they (the coerced into the Devil's ship, heaven and call upon Earth. The hearts of those who beheld, run down with men the Passage Boats are the foreigners in many tens each of which hoists a small and then receive the it is known that each send out many "crimps," out on all sides. But the are perpetrated by the 25 cts. fare only taken engraver, many poor people, "passage is so cheap, go to park in order to find em- people on the steamer, ob- in the habit of these per- into the hold and after- with them as "pigs." The trips have all been of this there are numbers of I if I in this falsely accuse may I be doubly hated of many men have thus been known. If all villages would every known kidnapper, over to the mandarins for ruin would be diverse- thousand times ten thousandly desired that all persons, with the spirit of the above, any more copies thereof and circulated, and thus ob- of virtue and desert."

KNAPPING CASE.

VIDENCE upon which public is defective, if tried by its decisions therefore are adrift and unjust; but to anticipate that any hesitation in accepting as very valid brief description given by Q. of the mechanism and the traffic incoherently, as in the name of the Dutch. The learned counsel is re- upon the point. Of the omitted for trial on a charge of kidnapping, one he liable to abuse from which it would be exempted under the regulations for coolie emigration to British colonies. His motive in issuing it is no doubt a highly philan- thropic one, and of course he has no self-interest in promoting emigration to the Dutch, or any other colony, beyond that of care for the welfare of Chinese labourers, and he does not, directly or indirectly, wilfully connive at a system which reproduces in China some of the worst horrors of western slavery. Public opinion is altogether powerless to extirpate the curse, for while it is terrible to sensitive and generous minds, it is dis- regarded by those whose hardened depravity most requires restraint. Public opinion must be strengthened by the infliction of legal penalties, and we hope Mr Tommochy will persevere in the course on which he has entered until he makes barracks for Chinese emigrants under any flag an impossibility on this island of Hongkong. Assuming, however, as we are at present bound to, that Messrs Bourjau, Hubener & Co. and Mr Lobscheid, are quite innocent of any unlawful practices in connection with the coolie traffic, by what right has a barrack existed of which, if Mr Pollard's statement be correct, they must have had immediate cognizance? No one, be he English, Dutch, French, or German, can legally keep such an establishment without a special license from the Registrar General, who has never yet issued a license to Messrs Bourjau, Hubener & Co. or any of their agents, any such document. This is a matter which ought to be cleared up, and we hope Mr Tommochy will take the steps necessary to satisfy the legitimate curiosity of the public and the imperative demands of public justice.

TELEGRAPH BLUNDERS.

We learn by the home papers that constant complaints are being made at home of the slovenly way in which telegrams via Kiachta are forwarded from Shanghai. Complaints at this end of the line seem to be equally frequent, and in face of the announcement that a regular weekly service is in contemplation, it becomes worth while to enquire into the reasons why, despite the grand triumphs of telegraphic art, practically nullify all the hoped for advantages to be derived from it. An incorrect telegram is worse by far than no telegram at all, and Mr Grant's line will receive but a small portion of support from either the China or the home public until it becomes certain that the telegram received will be a perfect transcript of that sent. The causes of the blunders committed are not far to seek. An English telegram, for instance, has to pass through the hands of some twenty five agents, of whom according to a late report scarcely one half understand that language. The same applies to those sent in French or German, though with less force, a familiarity with French being a *sine qua non* for the post of agent. There are but two ways of partially or entirely avoiding blunders; a third, that of telegraphing back the message sent, being practically useless when a period of twenty days is occupied in transmitting it only one way. The first is of

made." We avow our belief that Mr Bosman, the acting Dutch consul here, would not approve of any system under which coolies are obtained by crimp-procurement. Such a system is as foreign to his instructions, as it must be painful to him personally; but we are quite sure that on Tuesday, from his temporary seat on the magistrate's bench, he saw enough to raise a suspicion in his mind that the warrants issued to Chinese "bearers" had not been used in conformity with Dutch requirements; and that the recruitment of coolie labourers for Dutch service had not been of that purely voluntary character which alone renders the coolie traffic tolerable. It is needless that we should indicate what Mr Bosman's duty is, as we feel pretty confident that he will prevent the Dutch flag from being sullied by the actions of heartless crimps.

We cannot conclude without a remark by way of commiseration for Mr. W. Lobscheid. He was charged with being an accomplice in the alleged acts for which the "contractor," the "sub-contractor," and three other Chinamen have been committed for trial. The evidence failed to sustain the charge, which was dismissed. Let it be clearly understood that we quite coincide with the bench, that no case was made out; but we cannot help thinking it very strange that Mr L. permitted the use of his well-known name without taking care that it should not be employed in furtherance of improper purposes. His is, no doubt with good reason, a name possessing much influence among the Chinese, but it is evident from the statement he made to the bench on Tuesday that it is used by persons of whom he is ignorant, for objects of which he must disapprove. Thus, the certificate above quoted got into the hands of one of the prisoners who are committed for kidnapping. How many of those papers has he issued, and to whom? We ask the question in a perfectly fair spirit and in good faith, for it appears probable, owing to the too generous confidence of Mr Lobscheid's nature, that the worst of crimps may use his certificates as freely as the most honest agent. When (said Mr Lobscheid in his paper read to the bench) the British West India Emigration was initiated and being called upon to lend my influence, (being then Inspector of the Government Schools of this island,) I asked H. E. the Governor whether he had any objection to my assisting and to my issuing a notice to the Chinese assuring them that in British Colonies they would be free agents. H. E. had not only no objection, but was pleased to see the scheme succeeding. Exactly, but that was in reference to British colonies, which cannot be served by crimps; though even then he was slightly in error, for a coolie does not become a "free agent" in a British colony until he has fulfilled his agreement. The "notice" Mr Lobscheid has issued for the Dutch Government seems to be liable to abuse from which it would be exempted under the regulations for coolie emigration to British colonies. His motive in issuing it is no doubt a highly philan- thropic one, and of course he has no self-interest in promoting emigration to the Dutch, or any other colony, beyond that of care for the welfare of Chinese labourers, and he does not, directly or indirectly, wilfully connive at a system which reproduces in China some of the worst horrors of western slavery. Public opinion is altogether powerless to extirpate the curse, for while it is terrible to sensitive and generous minds, it is dis- regarded by those whose hardened depravity most requires restraint. Public opinion must be strengthened by the infliction of legal penalties, and we hope Mr Tommochy will persevere in the course on which he has entered until he makes barracks for Chinese emigrants under any flag an impossibility on this island of Hongkong. Assuming, however, as we are at present bound to, that Messrs Bourjau, Hubener & Co. and Mr Lobscheid, are quite innocent of any unlawful practices in connection with the coolie traffic, by what right has a barrack existed of which, if Mr Pollard's statement be correct, they must have had immediate cognizance? No one, be he English, Dutch, French, or German, can legally keep such an establishment without a special license from the Registrar General, who has never yet issued a license to Messrs Bourjau, Hubener & Co. or any of their agents, any such document. This is a matter which ought to be cleared up, and we hope Mr Tommochy will take the steps necessary to satisfy the legitimate curiosity of the public and the imperative demands of public justice.

course to have either Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans, or people perfectly conversant with those languages, employed as manipulators, though even then (as witness our home lines) blunders are pretty sure to be frequent. The second is to devise some means whereby the message given in such a shape as to reduce the chances of mistake to a minimum. This we imagine can only be secured by the use of printed copies, with letters or signs instead of spaces between the words. If in cypher, so much the better, as it is constantly observed that mistakes generally arise from an incorrect reading of a word with which the manipulators are partially or imperfectly acquainted. The cypher need not be a difficult one to translate, the object of using it being not to attain greater secrecy, but to make its transmission so purely mechanical that there is no danger of the imagination of the transmitting agent being brought into play. With respect to calligraphy, more mistakes arise from the script than most people fancy—more especially when a slight blunder in a word from one station becomes increased at the next, on account of some attempt to make sense of what appears as nonsense to an agent with, at the best, but a limited knowledge of the language whose words he is transmitting. Few can boast that they write a hand perfectly clear to all who use the Roman character, while print has ever been found sure and safe. Should such of our friends as avail themselves of the Kiachta route follow our suggestion we venture to predict that a marked diminution in the number of mistakes made will become visible.

POLICE REPORTS.

Before C. C. SMITH, Esq.

Saturday, 27th October.

WHOLESALE KIDNAPPING.

MR. M. S. TOMMOCHY, brought before the Magistrate this morning another batch of prisoners. He stated that in passing along Queen's Road, Wanchi, he noticed the upper windows of No. 100 were barricaded with strong wooden bars. He entered and found a trap-door closed, which upon knocking was opened to him. In the room he found twenty-five women and children seated on the floor, and the six prisoners (five men and one woman) walking about amongst them. He asked prisoners what they were doing, and they said the place was an emigration barrack. They said they had a license to keep it, and first prisoner produced a written paper, purporting to be a permit from M. S. Tommochy to keep such a house. Mr Tommochy handed the paper to the Court saying that such a paper had never been issued from his office, and would not authorize the keeping of a house for such purposes. The women all looked very miserable, and many of them were in tears. When he told them that they should be released, they fell upon their knees and seemed very grateful; upon being questioned the women said they had been kidnapped, that they had lived in the country above Canton, and had been told that if they would go to that place they would be paid one dollar each, and that husband and children would be found for them. They expressed themselves as quite willing to appear before the Court and point out the master and keepers of the house. Mr Tommochy charged the second prisoner as Inspector of the house. At the time he was arrested he had a paper in his hand, and appeared to be taking notes. He stated at the time that he was employed by Messrs Bourjau, Hubener & Co. First prisoner he charged with being master of the house, the other three men he had good reason to believe had been engaged to go as servants in the ship that should take the emigrants, and were employed at the house in taking care of the women and children in the absence of the master. Sixth prisoner, the woman, was charged as being mistress of the establishment. Mr Tommochy said he would be able to prove that there had been great crying and calling out that they had been kidnapped. He produced some papers with written Chinese characters on them, which he had pulled from the door of the house. The papers were not read.

First prisoner was questioned and answered in Chinese, which not being translated cannot be reported, but his Worship said in answer, "How can you say that, when Mr Tommochy says that no such paper was ever issued from his office? Messrs Bourjau, Hubener & Co. had no right to give permission for the keeping of such a house."

A middle aged Chinese woman was placed in the stand. She said she was a married woman from some place above Canton. She was induced by an old woman to go to Canton, by the representation that at that place she could get a husband. The morning after arriving in that place, she was placed on the steamer and arrived in Hongkong three days ago, being told that she was to be married here. Upon arriving she was locked up in the house in question, and not allowed to go out. She this morning saw the man who brought her down, but he was not in the dock. All the prisoners were in the house, and told her that they were awaiting a ship to take her to some place she could not remember. She told them she would not go in the ship; she had seen sixth prisoner often about the room and it seemed her duty to keep it in time, and they given enough to her ent. A fat old Chinese woman was next placed in the stand. She had been induced to come to Hongkong, by being told that she was to have employment in the house of an European. She had with her a pretty little daughter, said to be fifteen years old, but did not look over ten. The daughter was also promised European employment. She also recognised all the prisoners as being connected with the house. They had taken her to a foreign land in a ship. She had been locked up in the house eleven days, sometimes fed sparingly, some- times well. Money had never been paid her. She had never seen any but Chinese in the house, and did not know which of prisoners was master.

Mr Tommochy said he had twenty three other witnesses, but one of them had gone mad. He asked that the every girl be examined, and she was brought in. She was a small footed girl, about sixteen years of age, and evidently from the country. She looked about the Court a great deal, but was perfectly quiet. So evident was it that she was out of her mind, that after two or three questions, she was sent out to be made to comprehend, she was sent out. Sergeant Abatine testified, that every

day for the last ten weeks, from one to five persons had applied to him for permission to examine the house in question, for the purpose of recovering friends, who had been kidnapped and confined there. He had several times gone to the house with these complaints. Upon his first visit, he found 27 women confined, on the second but two, and on last Sunday there were nine. The third and fourth prisoners kept the key to the trap, which was constantly locked. Upon going to the house the first time he had asked for the master, and the second prisoner said he was master; on another time having asked for the master, first prisoner went out, and brought second prisoner, who he said was the master. The women confined in the room were in a wretched condition. He had no suspicion that there was any thing wrong, but thought the place an emigration office and all right. The second time he went to the house he heard crying and tramping of feet.

Mr Tommochy asked that the case might be remanded to allow him to place in the witness stand, the sergeant in charge of No. 3 station, who could prove that there was a disturbance at the house this morning, when it was attacked by outsiders attempting the rescue of their friends confined within.

His Worship said this was one of the most outrageous cases ever brought before him. Case was remanded until Monday.

Monday, 29th October.

The Chinamen charged on Saturday were again placed in the dock this afternoon. Mr Pollard, instructed by Mr Caldwell, appeared for the defence.

Mr Smith.—For whom do you appear, Mr Pollard?

Mr Pollard.—I appear for everybody.

Mr Smith.—Do you appear for Mr Lobscheid?

Mr Pollard.—That case is not yet before the Court. I should not like the cases to be entered on together, because one is a question of fact, the other is constructive. I do not wish to conceal that I am anxious to have them separate, because it may be that the prisoners in one case may have to be examined in the other. In the interest of justice, the cases should be fully investigated. The learned counsel continued that it would be useless to say that the prisoners had not committed an offence against the Registration Ordinance by making use of a place as a sort of emigration lodge for intending emigrants. No doubt they had done so, but ignorance of the fact that a passage house was not sufficient, they were not guilty of the offence of keeping a house for emigrants without having a license.

Mr Smith.—Do you refer to all the prisoners?

Mr Pollard.—I refer to the householder. He has been guilty of a formal offence under the 18th Sec. of the Registration Ordinance, and is liable to a fine of \$50.

Sergeant Langdon was then recalled and deposed.—Last Saturday about 8 o'clock I went to No. 100, Queen's Road West, in that house found the papers now produced; they were down stairs in the accountant's office, (papers produced).

Mr Pollard inquired what was the nature of the papers.

Mr Deane said one was a list of women that had been bought.

Mr Pollard complained that the prosecution seemed to be unnecessarily interfered with.

The complaint was by the Registrar General; he objected to the superintendent of police and Mr Tommochy acting together on the bench.

Mr Tommochy.—I wish to ask if I can have a voice in the prosecution. The Attorney General is not here, but if Mr Pollard objects to my interfering, I shall ask for a remand.

Mr Pollard said he did not object to the Registrar General appearing as prosecutor, on the understanding that that was to be sufficient. He did not see why the superintendent of Police should officiate also.

Mr Smith said the more formal mode of proceeding would be to put all questions to him, and the case proceeded.

Sergeant Langdon continued. He handed the papers to the Superintendent. He also produced some placards which were exhibited on the shutters.

In reply to Mr Pollard His Worship said all the papers, on which the name of Bourjau, Hubener & Co. appeared, would be fully translated.

Mr Pollard, remarked that it would then be seen who was admissible.

The witness was cross-examined by Mr Pollard, but without affecting his testimony. The next witness called was

Ho a Lan, a woman, deposed, I am a widow, from Macao. On 21st of this month a woman at Macao whom I did not know asked me to come to Hongkong to get married (a laugh), I came with her to Hongkong; she was taken to the house where I was found and put up stairs, though a trap door, which was not locked, but a man stood on it. A woman told me, "A man come up by and bye and see you." I cannot see the woman in Court. I do not know the sixth prisoner, a woman.

Mr Pollard.—She is charged with being the mistress.

Mr Pollard.—Well, false imprisonment. That's the thin end of the wedge.

Witness was cross-examined by Mr Pollard as to the promises that were held out to her to induce her to come to Hongkong, they were to the effect that she should be married, and have chow-chow.

Mr Pollard remarked that a paper which had been put in by the Registrar General, taken from the house, merely contained an intimation that no one who came there need stop there until the Court.

Mr Tommochy.—What has the paper to do with the case, when the people could not read it?

Mr Pollard.—I have no doubt that the prosecution thought it would tell against the prisoners, or it would not have been put in.

Mr Smith.—I can understand his object in putting it into Court.

Mr Pollard.—I cannot understand it, unless it is to prove the perfect innocence of the prisoners.

Mr Smith.—These prisoners are taken up for a breach of sec 18 of the Registration Ordinance.

Mr Pollard replied that the prisoners could not be properly apprehended for such an offence, they must be summoned.

Mr Smith.—I am perfectly satisfied with the course adopted by the Registrar General.

Koon a Soy, married woman deposed, that her husband had been sick for a long time; that she had met a man in the country who said she had better go to Hongkong, where she would get employment, at \$4 a month.

She came with the man the same evening; the man took her to the house where she was found. He told her to sit down a bit, while he went to look for the man who would employ her. She waited some time, and a man belonging to the house asked her to have a meal. Witness was directed to see if she could identify the man in the Court. She could not. After the man had finished supper, the man who fed her said the man who brought her down would come to breakfast. Next morning the man not coming, she said "I will go out and look for the man," but the man of the house said, "The man will be here."

She afterwards asked again, and the man said the other would be there in the afternoon. She could not say whether the man ever came or not, because she could never get downstairs the door being locked. No money was ever given to her. While she was in the house, she saw no European come there. She cried every day, because she was detained in the house, and her husband had nothing to eat. Witness being directed to "review" the prisoners, walked along the front of the dock, and identified the first prisoner as being the one who gave a man (Mr Tommochy) a paper.

In cross examination she said, she had asked to be allowed to go out. Meals were put through the window of the room; when she wished to go down from the room, she was told "Don't you go down, some foreigners will beat you." She could not say who said that. The window looked out into a street. She was told if she cried out, an European would come and beat her. If the man had who brought her came back, she was willing to go to work in Hongkong. She was frightened to go to any other place or country.

Mr Pollard.—How did she know about going to any other country?

Witness replied she heard the women in the house were talking about it. She heard the women crying because they had been kidnapped.

Mr Pollard.—Is she kept in confinement now? Is she not allowed to go out now?

Witness replied something, and Mr Tommochy said it was to the effect that the Registrar General had charge of her.

Mr Pollard complained that Mr Tommochy was usurping the functions of the interpreter.

Mr Smith said the witness could not understand the question as put by the learned counsel.

Witness being pressed by the learned counsel replied that she was in a much better place now (a laugh).

Sung a Qu, from Tamsui, on 17th of this month a man named Chong a Choi went to her house and took her away by force. She was brought to Sakawan down the Ly moon pass, and taken to Wanchi to the house where she was found. She identified all the prisoners as having been in the house, except the woman. Money was given to her with which to buy something to eat. She did not remain in the house willingly. No Europeans came to the house.

She saw Cheong a Choi talking with some of the prisoners; he told the second prisoner that she was sick with fever.

Mr Tommochy here put a paper into Court.

Mr Pollard objected, unless the prisoners could be connected with it.

Mr Tommochy.—It was found in the house of which it has been proved the second prisoner is master.

Mr Pollard.—Then it will be put in as against him only, and only so far as it is relevant to the case.

His Worship then directed it to be read. It purported to be (so far as we understood the interpreter) "presents" by which witness, whose husband was dead, and who was poor and not able to support herself, sold herself for \$19 to Cheong-a-choi and others. The paper bore a "mark," which witness identified as hers. She put that mark to it in a house in this colony.

Witness was then asked by Mr Tommochy if she was sold to Cheong-a-choi and other men. The second, third, fourth and fifth prisoners were present. She did not know what the paper was about when she signed it.

Mr Tommochy asked for a remand. He had more evidence to produce and he intended to proceed against the prisoners for a breach of the immigration orders, in taking in persons suffering from mental and physical disease.

Mr Pollard asked that bail might be allowed.

Mr Smith said, he should certainly refuse bail for the 1st and 2nd prisoners. The excitement which this case had occasioned rendered it unsafe to grant the application.

After some discussion, His Worship consented to admit the first and second prisoners to bail in sums of \$1000 each.

Friday, 30th October.

COOLIE HORSES.

Hing-a-Sun and Chin-a-New both resident at Wanchi, were complained against by M. S. Tommochy, Esq. for keeping unlicensed coolie houses in violation of ordinance 6, 1863.

Mr Tommochy had heard that there was another barrack at Wanchi, filled with women and children, to be sent off as emigrants. Mr Tommochy had found many houses crowded with 30, 40, and 50 coolies each,

and kept without license. Not wishing to be hard on them, as they did not seem to know that a license was required, he warned them and left. The two prisoners were yesterday brought to his office for not having complied with the direction, and having refused to take out a license. The houses were away from the road out of sight, and in a very unsafe place for so many coolies to be congregated. The first prisoner was master of one of the houses with twenty three coolies, and the second prisoner, master of one with fifty four.

The coolie masters said they paid \$3 per month rent for the houses, and charged five cash per head per night for lodgers.

His Worship told prisoners that he should detain them until the licenses were procured. That at this time they were up only as a warning to the keepers of unlicensed coolie houses, who had better take warning, as next time they would suffer.

The Acting Superintendent of Police placed three prisoners in the dock charged with being suspicious characters. On Saturday the 27th acting upon information received from the Adjutant General he visited a row of new houses, in the Battery road, a little beyond the Sailors Home. The house had clearly been used as a barrack. The latter floor was fitted up with 20 small sleeping apartments; on the upper floor were several large rooms, and one large strong room with strong walls and grated windows, evidently fitted up for the confinement of prisoners. He found up stairs two swords and two shields. The three prisoners at the bar were also found in the house, and seemed to have charge of it.

The first prisoner explained his being in the house, by saying he went to have a look at the house. Second prisoner said, he had gone in to look for the third prisoner, and the third prisoner said, he wanted a drink of water, and went in to get it.

His Worship required each of them to find sureties of fifty dollars for their good behaviour for the next three months.

The prisoners charged with kidnapping were again brought up on remand. Mr Tommochy, Q. C. appeared for the defence. Mr Pollard, Registrar General, prosecuted.

When the prisoners were placed in the dock, the female, described as "matron" of the house whence they were taken, pointed out that the wives of Nos. 1, 2, and 3, were in the body of the court, and she suggested, they should be apprehended. The suggestion was not adopted. Mr Tommochy then called for some women who had been found in the house where the "emigrants" had been confined, and one was produced in the witness box.

Mr Murray, colonial surgeon, deposed that he had examined certain women in the goal and identified the one now before the bench; she was deaf, dumb, and blind; and she had been communicated with only by pressure on the hand; it was a most remarkable case.

Mr Pollard.—What has this to do with the charge of false imprisonment?

Mr Tommochy.—It is one of the cases I shall proceed on for taking in unfit persons as emigrants.

Mr Pollard.—It would be much better to keep the cases separate.

Another female was, however, produced by Mr Tommochy. Dr. Murray deposed she was very deficient; very nearly approaching, he should say, a case of dementia.

Mr Tommochy said he had another woman.

Mr Pollard.—How did you test her?

Dr. Murray said he had put his hand up before her eyes; she had winced a little, and he was satisfied of her partial blindness.

Mr Pollard objected to this mode of procedure. If it was intended to finish the case of false imprisonment, but that he proceeded with the charges under the Emigration Ordinance, he could not make the subject of a new proceeding.

His Worship concurred. A paper was here read to the effect that Bourjau, Hubener & Co. were in want of female and male labourers for Dutch settlements; that \$8 would be paid in advance to emigrants who would be well treated, and that if any body wished to go, they must apply quickly at Ho-fai-koon, and not be too late.

Mr Pollard said he had admitted already that these papers should be interpreted and read; and he wanted to know now what charge he had to meet.

Mr Tommochy said he did not know that these papers would be admitted.

His Worship remarked that none of the papers had anything to do with the case.

Mr Pollard.—No; these papers do not show that these people intended to infringe anything, for they ask people to come if they like, and tell them they will be well treated.

His Worship concurred.

Mr Pollard asked if His Worship would deal with the cases before him, or did he intend to send them to a jury?

His Worship said he did; it certainly was a case for a jury.

Mr Pollard thought so too. Without admitting anything affecting the guilt or innocence of the prisoners, it might be assumed that the woman, Chun a Sun, had been detained against her will. But it did not follow that the prisoners had been guilty of any offence. This was a matter in which the law of evidence must be applied with strict regard. Therefore if His Worship made up his mind to send the case to a jury, he (the learned counsel) should not now call any witness for the defence.

His Worship said that leaving his jurisdiction entirely out of the question, he thought it was a case for a jury. The only thing he had a doubt about was the sixth prisoner, the woman.

Mr Pollard said, there was one thing about the first prisoner, that he was not shown to have been in the house, except when he gave Mr Tommochy the paper. The first prisoner (said the learned counsel) is the contractor for the supply of the people. The second prisoner is the tenant of the house, and he it is who has committed a breach of the Registration ordinance; but the first prisoner has entered into a contract with the Dutch Government to supply emigrants under certain regulations, and under examination by the Dutch consul and the harbour master. He in his turn sublets his contract. He went to the house of the second prisoner, who is a sub-contractor—he went in his chair, to know if any more emigrants had come during the previous week, and if there were, any ready to be shipped; because when there are any ready to be shipped notice must be given to the harbour master. When he went to the house Mr Tommochy happened to be there. So far, he could not know anything of the locking up part of the business.

His Worship.—That will be a point for the jury.

The official assay of the new dollar was recently held at Canton on the 24th October, in presence of Mr. Mayers, H. M. Vice-Consul in charge, and two Chinese officials. The result of the assay was that the dollar was admitted as equal to the standard of purity claimed for it, viz: 9/10 or 900 per 1000; and as such it will be admitted in payment of Customs duties.

The French steamer brings advices from Japan to the 16th inst. Stotsbashi is confirmed as Tycoon. The war continues; but Chosia's troops have been twice routed. An embassy from Stotsbashi to Russia is to leave by an early mail, with the view of arranging the Sughan difficulties. The *Regille* brought into harbour. The Captain and part of the crew of the schooner *Lucheta*, lost on the 3rd, in the Gulf of Amoor. A Dutch brig, the *Hydrodamas*, has been totally lost in Van Diemen's straits; only three Japanese saved. The American whaling barque *Pacific* was wrecked on Blierting island, crew saved. Fusiana has been assaulted by a party, under Admiral Bell, U. S. Navy.

Mr Pollard.—I merely mean this: that there is not the slightest evidence to convict him of the charge against him, and if he can give good bail to answer any charge that may be preferred against him, I think it is useless to commit him. The sixth day that there is a *prima facie* case against the others. No doubt it is a very grave charge, and your Worship must send the case to the jury. The second, third, fourth and fifth prisoners were deposed to by witnesses as having been there when they were confined, if they were confined.

Mr Tommochy.—The house was barricaded in such a manner as I never saw before.

Mr Pollard.—Oh, the houses in Gough street, when Howqua brought his 45 wives down, were barricaded, but not so much as O'Brien could not see that the verandah was crowded with women—(a laugh).

As to the cognizance of the alleged imprisonment, Langdon and O'Brien had both been at this house, and if the state of the place that there was anything wrong, why should it with other people, with the prisoners, who only took part in a proceeding of which they knew nothing?

His Worship replied.—Just so; but that is a point for the jury.

The woman was then discharged, the other prisoners being committed for trial at the Supreme Court; the two first, that is the alleged contractor for the emigrants, the coolies, and the sub-contractor, being each allowed bail in \$500, and the other prisoners in \$100 each.

TRIP OF THE SALLETTE.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam-ship *Sallette* went out of harbour on the 27th on a trial trip round the island of Lantau, in order to test her new boiler, a very mercurious company, including His Excellency the Governor and Aide-de-Camp, official and mercantile gentlemen, &

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

WE are glad to learn that the assay question regarding the new dollars has been satisfactorily settled at Canton, and that they will shortly be proclaimed legal tenders at that port in payment of Customs duties. We trust that the cautious example shown by the Canton authorities will be followed at other ports.

A CORRESPONDENT who has already rushed into print about the Hongkong Gas Company, wants now to know "why we did not publish at any rate an abstract of the financial statement issued with the report in which the Directors state they will now very shortly be in a position to pay a dividend from remittances expected from Hongkong." The writer is in error in ascribing this language to the Directors; it is apparently only an editorial comment by the *London and China Express*, which also remarks—"It is quite evident from the large amount of receipts for the year, 1865, that the shareholders will soon enjoy a very handsome dividend." It is to be hoped these anticipations will be realised, but we agree with our correspondent that it would have been a more satisfactory course if an abstract of accounts had accompanied the published report, for then the public might have learnt why the shares are at 10 per cent premium in Hongkong and at a discount in the London market.

THE Contractor Linkee for the detection of those kidnappers a reward of five hundred dollars was recently offered by the Colonial Government, has at length returned. It appears that his kidnappers took him to a village some fifty miles above Canton, and there detained him until he agreed to pay a ransom of \$4,500, which, however, he gained his freedom in any other way, he eventually consented to do. We trust that the Government will move the Chinese authorities to take steps to discover and punish the kidnappers.

SOME of our readers may not be aware that a handsome monument has been lately erected by the owners of the *Chanticleer* in memory of the ill-fated people who perished in that steamer during a terrible typhoon last year. The monument is a fine structure, the shape of a tall obelisk on a base of three blocks, bearing the name of Captain Sargent on its surface, associated with an allusion to his unfortunate officers, crew, and passengers. The tablet in St John's Cathedral in memory of those who lost their lives in the steamer *Corra* on the same occasion, has been before alluded to in the local papers. Both structures are worthy of the high character of, and reflect credit upon, the owners of these two steamers.

THE circulation of the new coinage is naturally exciting some attention, notwithstanding the following suggestion, written by the *Hankow Times*, has been anticipated by the Viceroy of Canton, who has directed that the new dollar, and of course the smaller coins, shall be legal tenders, in payment of Customs' duties at that port. Our contemporaries generally would facilitate the circulation of the new coinage among the Chinese were they to make this fact widely known. The *Times* says—"The population of China would be in some way induced to accept the new coin into circulation amongst themselves. This can only be effected by the promulgation of Imperial edicts, decreeing the coin to be a legal tender. If the dollar is to be of any service outside the colony, and as a monetary medium both in the open ports and in the interior of China, there is but one way of rendering it so, and that is by exhibiting the interest of the Chinese and others in the general scheme, and obtaining their aid in forcing the circulation upon their people. The British Minister at Peking, if supported by his colleagues, is the most likely person to bring about this desirable consummation; and we believe that, were he called upon to make the attempt, he would experience little difficulty in persuading the Imperial Government to come to some advantageous arrangement."

By Order of His Excellency the Governor, the following Letter from the Acting Dutch Consul at this Port is published for the information of Mariners, and others whom it may concern.—"At the request of the Director of Ways and Means, I have the honor to hand you enclosed translation respecting the cargo of the *Baroness de Suez*, van de Bunde, which arrived at this Port on the 12th, 15th, and 19th June, 1866, Nos. 47, 48, and 49, announcing that the *Baroness de Suez* because they were being laid in this Archipelago had a small ball on the top, and by steering for any port, the white beacons were to be kept on the starboard and the black on the port side. This notification is repeated specially with reference to the *Baroness de Suez* because they are about being laid near Sourabaya. Till now the outer beacon at the western entrance, which indicated the western limit, was a black anchor-shaped buoy. This has been replaced by a white *Herbert's* beacon, which on entering the port must be kept on the starboard side."

THE inquest on the body of Indian constable Khader Khan terminated on Saturday in a verdict of "Wild murder against some person or persons unknown."

MR WILLIAM Pustan, of Altona, has just been elected member of the Board of Trade in that town, vice Mr Bernhard Donner, deceased, and the election is confirmed by the Government of Holstein.

IN discussing the question of the mortality on board cooie ships from India and China, *Mitchell's Maritime Register* says—"The cooie emigration to the West Indies is of too great consequence to the welfare of that continent, of the Colonies to be made the subject of abuses such as the system continues to exhibit."

THE tea-shippers have not excited a good deal of comment on the home press. It will henceforward, on every recurrence, be known as the Derby of the Ocean. The victory of the *Tea-ship* is attributed to accident. The *Derby* was a robbery, rather than a victory, which was won by the *Tea-ship* as it literally did the same hour on Wednesday as the *Tea-ship* her nearest rival, and then dashed up Channel, the two ships abreast of each other. Off Dungeness the following morning the pilots boarded them at the same moment, and at the Downs steam tugs were waiting to tow them to the river. It was at this point that the light was really decided. Both the vessels were taken to towed almost simultaneously and again they started

neck and neck. But the *Tea-ship* happened to have a steam-tug of greater power than neighbour, and to that fortunate accident, rather than her own sailing qualities, she owed her success." The *Times* make a statement to the same effect. The account on the *Standard* gives an additional explanation of the *Tea-ship's* success—

"The *Ariel* claims to have drawn ahead of her competitor, arriving off Dungeness some hours before her. But again untoward fate intervened. Not a pilot was to be found, and she was kept rolling and tumbling about in the short sea with her main-topmast to the mast, till again the *Tea-ship* ranged alongside, and neck and neck they once more started up the river. And here the *Ariel* had for the last time resumed her place in the van, when the very masts took up the parable against her and held her back on the very threshold of victory. Arrived at the dock gates two hours before her pertinacious opponent, she found that time and tide, proverbially indisposed to wait for any one, were yet bent on making her wait for them. It would be two hours before there was water enough for her to enter, and for two hours she lay, an anxious Peri at the muddy gates of the Isle of Dogs Paradise, till Father Thames should give permission for her to enter. But here the two hours were out, the lighter-built and less heavily-laden *Tea-ship* was alongside. Fourteen feet of water would serve her turn, while her bulkier rival required four feet more, and while the *Ariel* still lay at the very foot, as it were, of the winning post, the other slipped in and carried off the prize. The difference between the cargoes of the *Ariel* and *Tea-ship* was 122,191 lb. This difference cost the *Ariel* the prize, but on the other hand, the larger amount of freight will no doubt more than make good the loss."

It is a matter of wonder to every one personally unconnected with the *Tea-ship* how she has won her victory, and so persistently to shut their eyes to its glaring enormities. Our advice from Saigon, brought on Sunday by the French mail steamer, furnish us with the intelligence of a revolt on board of one of the cooie ships. The French barque *Eugene d'Adèle* Captain Girard, left Macao for the Havanna on the 7th October, with a freight of 465 cooies. A day or two after she sailed the cooies showed signs of discontent. This dissatisfaction soon ripened into mutiny, and the cooie passengers rose against the officers and crew. A hard fight for the mastery ensued, in which the Chinese are said to have been met by great determination and resolute bravery on the part of those in charge of the vessel. Great numbers of the cooies were killed in the struggle, many more were wounded and the revolt suppressed. The Captain, however, was shot dead by one of the mutineers; the chief officer was severely wounded and many of the crew were more or less seriously injured during the melee. The barque arrived at Saigon on the 15th instant. The affair was reported to the authorities there and the wounded were at once placed under medical care in the military hospital of the French government, while we are glad to say, they were last recovered at the date of our last advice.—*Mercury*.

We would call the attention of our subscribers to a notification which has for some time past appeared at the head of our shipping list, thus—"Cargoes of vessels will be conveyed by forwarding corrections." It is obviously impossible for the conductor of a journal, however much he may desire it, to furnish any thing like an approximation to a correct list unless aided by the good will of his subscribers, and we trust that gentlemen interested in possessing in our files a correct record of vessels present and absent, will be good enough to occasionally correct the errors which they may detect. The name of the vessel, her ownership, and destination on a slip of paper would be quite sufficient.

THE British schooner *Brin* bound from Bangkok to Hongkong, with a valuable cargo of Cotton, Copper, &c. experienced very heavy weather while proceeding up the China sea, and sprung a leak, whereupon she made for Bangkok again, but was shortly afterwards overtaken by another heavy squall, which carried away both masts, and did much damage. As the water in hold was found to gain upon the vessel, she was abandoned by her officers and crew, who saved safely at Bangkok, after having been fifteen days at sea in an open boat. An inquiry into the circumstances is reported in the *Straits Times*, and our contemporary does not mention the judgment pronounced by the Court.

INTELLIGENCE reaches us by the mail steamer from Batavia that the Governor General's lady, the Baroness de Suez, van de Bunde, expired at her residence at Buitenzorg on Saturday, the 13th instant, at 8 p.m. after a short but severe illness and was buried at Batavia on the 15th inst. His Excellency and family intended to return to Europe by the French mail of next month. No successor to His Excellency having been appointed as yet, the Vice President of the Council of Netherlands India will be Governor General ad interim.—*Straits Times* Oct. 20.

THE *Madras Times* publishes the subjoined letter from a well-informed correspondent, on the subject of the P. and O. Service—"I understand that the entire service of the P. and O. Company will be immediately altered, in this way: the steamers, instead of running as now to only two terminal ports, will take the turn of all. Thus the *Simla*, we will say, leaves Calcutta with the outward-bound Bengal passengers, touches at Madras, debarks these homeward passengers at Galle, and thence proceeds to Bombay. She remains there some three weeks, then to Cochin, and then proceeds to Suez. She then rests at least ten days, and then takes in the Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta and China passengers, proceeds to Galle, and after handing over her Indian passengers to another steamer (from Bombay) proceeds to China. After a certain rest at China, she proceeds again to Galle, Suez, Bombay, Galle and Calcutta, and thus completes the round. This is one line. Another works similarly, but, rather alternately, from Calcutta to Galle and Suez, thence returning to Bombay, Galle and China, and back in due course to Calcutta again. Thus the China passengers will, like ourselves, have one direct mail from and one to Suez every month. This seems an equitable arrangement, and I hear has been favorably considered by the Directors of the Company. Any extra mail service with Bombay will be quite distinct from the fortnightly mail as above."

THE trade with the ports and countries in the Far East for the month and seven months ending 31st July, 1866, contributes the figures following to the Board of Trade—

EXPORTS TO CHINA AND HONGKONG.	
Quantity for the month ended 31st July.	
Cotton yarn,	388,080 lbs.
Cotton manufactures,	10,191,591 yds.
Worsted stuffs,	1,973,773 "
Woolen & worsted cloths,	139,922 "
Lead,	102 tons
Quantity for the seven months ended 31st July.	
Cotton yarn,	2,912,506 lbs.
Cotton manufactures,	101,973,487 yds.
Worsted stuffs,	12,276,389 "
Woolen & worsted cloths,	1,087,069 "
Lead,	1,185 tons
Value for the seven months ended 31st July.	
Cotton yarn,	£ 285,187
Cotton manufactures,	2,534,318
Worsted stuffs,	823,333
Woolen & worsted cloths,	187,456
Lead,	92,010

THE *Shan-Tung*, of 311 tons, was sold at Lloyd's by order of the Admiralty for £1,370. The *Bri King* steamer was loading a general cargo for Shanghai at 26 per ton.

THE Messageries Impériales steamer *Alphée* reached Hongkong Sunday. Much of the news by this arrival has been anticipated. A telegram dated London Oct. 6, says Sargol has been recovered. The Emperor Maximilian has declared that he will never abandon Mexico. The *Neve* crew won each a month's wages from the crew of the *Flyer* Cross. The Brazilian army have been defeated by the Paraguanys with a loss of 280 officers and 8,000 men. The average loss on the cargoes by the *Ten* clippers is estimated at 6d. per lb.

WESTWARD.

There are also some neat and prominent objects in the way of pagodas: two on the opposite side of the river—one on either side of the San Hing River mouth 新江口—and two on this side, of which the first or lowest, Un Fui Táp 元魁塔 is 243 years old and the other, Shung Hi Táp, 崇禧塔 283. Hard by the latter there is a fine specimen of the massive stucco which pierces the leaves. Then again in the rear of the city some neat looking buildings are to be seen, embowered in trees bordering on the rice plain. Here we found a delightful retreat from the sun in an open space under some massive shade trees, whence a charming view is had of the North Range hills and of the singular bluish black, scraggy nuggets of limestone, called the "seven star precipices" or Rocks 七星巖. The name "seven stars" is quite appropriate, one should think, for objects, which seem to be so far removed in a physical aspect from their surroundings. The origin of the name is however found in the fact that, whilst there are at least twelve of them, only seven can be distinguished from certain points of view, and of the whole number, seven can be grouped into a form, which resembles to "Dipper" in *Ursa Major*. The highest of the group is called the "Stone-House" Rock 石屋巖 from the cavern which pierces it from side to side. Our visit being late in the afternoon and the distance some three miles, we had but few moments to spend in observation. The glory of the place has been daily departed, i.e. the glory ascribed by idolatrous fables, the majesty of nature still remains. Desolated temples with brazen images, which in some instances give evidence of fine workmanship, are found at the foot of the rocks; and high up on the precipitous faces of two of them, semi-natural recesses or shelves are occupied by little grottoes for the monks, who are few in number and dull of apprehension, but possess of an amazingly quick eye for broken silver. To the highest we turned quite steps, and by a most fatiguing scramble up the romantic path or stair-way, which in places is supplied with heavy iron hand-chains on the rock side for the security of life, we reached the crazy perch 190 feet above the level of the plain; at the remaining distance we estimated at 70 feet, which gives a total of 260 feet. The highest of the group will then probably not exceed 320 feet—the lowest being about 150. The rocks are all worn and seemed by the rains and storms of centuries, and may be called marble, although of a poor quality. In some places they appear beautifully crystalline, sometimes white and again of a flesh color; but the general cast is dark bluish black like the translucent limestone of the North river. Their origin is doubtless that suggested by Mr. B. Kinnear, whose opinion is that they rest on the sandstone, which crops out in the adjacent hills, and are the remains of the limestone deposits, which in the course of time has been washed away on all sides, leaving them as monuments or rather mementoes of the past.

From an elevated position we had a fine view of the plain stretching from the hill range in the rear to and beyond the river in front. Far down by the entrance to the gap there is a broad stretch of up-land rice, to be replaced by wheat in the fall; and, if we could see through to the mouth of the pass, a fine plantation of tea shrubs would be visible on the steep sides of the "De-cayed Helve." We are reminded too of the busy women and children, who all along the route have been gathering mulberry leaves, plucking them with a rapidity and carelessness which boded no good for the bushes or sprouts which bear them; they are soon to be cut down, as is done yearly, and next year's leaves will be gathered from new shoots. At our feet, ponds full of the lotus are spread out—an occasional one growing a species different from the common water lily and called *Tsz' Shot* 茨實 or locally *Shin shot* 蔴實. I do not know whether it has ever been described or not; but a clever botanist may possibly get a general idea of its appearance, if I drop the remark, that its immense leaves with blistered spring surface remind me of what those of the noble *Victoria regia* turned upside down would be supposed to look like. The seeds are esteemed a great delicacy by those who have a fancy for such things.

The declining sun warned us to make haste; so after a hasty glance into the Shik shat 石室, with its bridge and pool, marble Kwanyin, "dark cave" and pragmatic bays, we hurried back and found Mr W. sorely disappointed at missing the light for a "view" of the "seven stars." His labor was slightly repaid next morning by

getting as good a picture as the camera could make of the scene, and yet far from satisfactory to eyes, which have looked upon the grandeur of nature in her superb collection at Yosemite valley. He came to the conclusion that the West River, however agreeable and pleasing to tourists, is not adapted to the tastes of photography. The great width of the river, the comparatively wide extent of the immediate valley, the tameness of the scenery and the unusual length of all distances, render the views when projected on a plain surface utterly insipid or on a such a reduced scale as to swallow up many of the minor objects which catch and interest the eye. As a rule, a picture for the public must be a picture in itself. On account of these peculiarities of the West River, I am fully persuaded, that for a mere pleasure excursion the North River will carry off the palm. The variety there is none the less, and the scenery is gathered more nearly about the observer.

THE COREAN OUTRAGE.

Two Chinese junks, which arrived at Chefoo on the 12th inst., have (says the *Shanghai Recorder*) brought the following report:

The captain of one of the junks was engaged by Mr. Thomas, the interpreter on board a foreign schooner, to pilot her up the river Phien, and thus became acquainted with that gentleman. Mr. Thomas, it will be remembered, came to China some years ago under the auspices of the English Mission, and has lately made a trip along the Korean coast for the purpose of obtaining some knowledge of their language and with the further object of making an exploring tour to the interior. The junk captain took the schooner up the river four tides. By this time an alarm had spread among the natives of the presence in the river of a piratical vessel with a large crew and heavy armament. The protestations of Mr. Thomas, that the vessel was a peaceful trader, were of no avail. Business of all kinds was suspended and the natives began to collect in large numbers on the banks of the river. The friends of the junk Captain, whose vessel it would seem had followed the schooner thus far, demurred at his proceeding further up the river, saying that if he were killed, they would not dare to return to Yen-tai. Yielding to their solicitations he left the schooner at a point opposite Little Phien-sung. Those on board the schooner were determined to proceed. The junk then came direct to Chefoo, with the report that a foreign schooner had been wrecked opposite Phien-sung, and all on board burnt with the vessel. The *General Sherman* is the only schooner known to have been on the Korean Coast, and it is believed that it is she who met this fate.

Our contemporary adds—This additional intelligence respecting the recent outrage by the Koreans upon a foreign schooner, confirms the opinion already entertained that the vessel attacked was the *General Sherman*, as the junk master bringing the news was acquainted with Mr. Thomas, who had gone as interpreter on board that vessel. From Chefoo to Tientsin and thence to Peking; where he will obtain a passport from the United States' Legation and will then continue his journey to Moukden, where he will endeavour to procure the assistance of the Chinese authorities in tracing out the facts connected with this matter. It is not altogether impossible that the possibility of the Koreans having taken the foreigners to the barrier and have handed them over to the Chinese. Should such be the case, there may be some difficulty in finding them out, as the Mandarins at Moukden have upon more occasions than one thrown foreigners into gaol to avoid the expense of sending them on to their proper authorities. It is not very long ago since Mr. Meadows, the British Consul at Newchwang, was instructed in obtaining the release of four Russians, who had been for a lengthened time in prison at that place, and the attempt made to induce Captain McCaslin and the crew of the *St. Surprise* to take up their quarters in a gaol, would probably have resulted in their being similarly detained, had they allowed themselves to get into the Mandarins' power, but that extent. The plan contemplated by Mr. McCreedy of going to the barrier in company with Chinese Officials will probably prove the most satisfactory that could be devised; as the Koreans are familiar with the Chinese authorities and their presence will secure the matter receiving attention at head quarters.

AN OPIUM ROBBERY.

D. J. Egan, a wealthy Jewish merchant, ships as usual a large quantity of Opium to China, a portion of his shipments was sent forward in the *Reiver*, and the remainder in the *Lightning*. On reaching Hongkong, it was found that five of the chests sent by the *Reiver*, contained mud instead of Opium. Three of the chests landed from the *Lightning* were also found to contain mud, and two more were under suspicion. There was a disinclination manifested to receive these chests, but the Captain of the *Lightning* very properly refused to compromise the ship in any way, a line of conduct which materially simplified matters. Two of the chests taken by the *Lightning* were reshipped to Calcutta, and were of course duly surveyed, and duly found to contain a valuable assortment of mud. The question then arose as to what had become of the Opium? Petty thefts of the precious drug are by no means uncommon. A robbery embracing the contents of ten boxes is quite another matter. The more especially, as the thieves were cool enough to abstract some of both kinds of the drug, and to divide their favors equally between the two steamers. Again, the robbery was not discovered until the return of the vessels from China. At first there was a general belief that the Government must be in fault, and that it should guarantee the contents of each box it throws on the market. But this supposition will not hold

water for a minute. The robbery could only have taken place (1) whilst the Opium was in transit from the Agencies to the Government Godown (2) in the Godown (3) in transit from the Godown to the steamer, or (4) on the voyage to Hongkong. We must dismiss at once, all thought of the chests being tampered with in transit to Hongkong. We may at once settle the point as to the robbery having taken place between the Agencies and the Calcutta godowns, as being out of the question. The risk and trouble are so great, as to make any attempt on the part of Opium thieves an act of folly. We are thus reduced to the consideration of the chances of robbery between the godown and the ship. Our reading of the middle of the robbery is that a regular plot was formed, in which a number of Chinese engaged, that boatmen and boat-keepers were all in the scheme, and that the manages managed quite accidentally to lose a tide, and the plotters quite accidentally found the boats unguarded, made hay whilst the sun shone, and made away with ten chests. We suggest that shippers of Opium should pay a little more, and ask the Board of Revenue to move the Government, or the Commissioner of Police,—in these days it is impossible to know where authority is centred—to grant, for the two or three days during which opium is shipped in every month a Police guard for each boat.—*Hurkaru*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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Price \$1.50. NOTES FOR TOURISTS IN THE NORTH OF CHINA. WITH 4 MAPS.

CONTAINING information respecting the chief places of interest to be visited at Peking, particulars respecting the Roads means of transport, exchange, places of accommodation, &c., &c.

WITH Three itineraries to gates of the Great Wall. "China Mail" Office. May 11, 1866.

From the North-China Daily News. A few months ago a writer in the *China Mail* commenced the publication of a series of *Notes for Tourists in the North of China*, and these have now been published in a condensed form with the name of the writer, Mr. N. B. Denmy. He is well qualified for the work he has undertaken, and his opinions as to the best modes of travelling as well as his casual remarks upon men and manners in the north, are worthy of attention. We can discover no omission in the list given, all the precautions necessary to secure comfort en route and at the various inns being very minutely set forth. From stage to stage of the journey, the traveller will find that his author has preceded him, and that the discomforts from which he suffers have been suffered before by one at least, who has set himself to devise means whereby they may be overcome. We commend to those interested in topographical researches the description given of Peking, and those whose ideas regarding the history of Peking and the many vicissitudes through which it has passed since the days of the Ming, may be interested in chapter at page 25. We cannot pass in review each chapter of Mr. Denmy's valuable little work.

Meanwhile, those who intend to travel in the North of China during the approaching autumn months, cannot do better than accept these *Notes* as their guide.

From the *Hankow Times*. There are plenty of sights in and around the city, some visible and many more invisible, and Mr. Denmy's description of the cities and their points of interest is full and complete. As to its correctness we are unfortunately unable to judge.

The name of the book "*Notes for Tourists in the North of China*" is rather ambitious, as the Author confines himself to Peking and two routes from that city to Kaitum, which is not very distant, but for a visit to Peking the information will prove very acceptable to a traveller especially if living at an inn.

From the *Shanghai Recorder*. The present mail brings us a copy of the useful little guide book for Tourists in the North of China, which has recently been published by Mr. N. B. Denmy, and we are glad to be able to express a favourable opinion upon its serviceableness. The book, though it only pretends to be a guide to travellers, contains much useful and interesting information; and may be looked upon in the light of the "*Murray*" for Tourists in Northern Provinces of the Celestial Empire.

From *Trübner's American and Oriental Literary Record*. The first Chinese "Murray" that has been given to the world appears in the shape of a neat pamphlet of some 74 pages, entitled "*Notes for Tourists in the North of China*, by N. B. Denmy." The pamphlet contains, in fact, very full descriptions of Tientsin, Peking, and the surrounding country, with valuable notes on the productions, objects of curiosity, public buildings, etc. of the "City of China," besides itineraries from Peking to the Mongolian frontier and the passes of the Great Wall. His work is illustrated with several useful plans of Peking, and of the route between that city and the sea.

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599	Sept. 14	R. C.
549	Oct. 1	del M

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SHANGHAI.

SHIP'S NAME	CAPTAIN	FLAG	TON	DATE OF ARRIVAL	CORRESPONDING AGENTS	DESTINATION	INTERESTED PARTY
Sailing Vessels							
Amster	Th. Linder	B. bk.	298	July 26	A. R. Thy and Co.		
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Arctican	Mearns	B. bk.	253	Sept. 27	Stevens and Co.		
Bertha	Young	B. bk.	292	Oct. 5	Smith, Keane - y and Co		
Benhar Carl	Luders	Pr. bk.	400	Oct. 30	Stevens and Co.		
Bismarck	Putnamson	Pr. bk.	118	Oct. 11	Wm. Putnam and Co.		
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388	Sept. 12	Frazier
400	Oct. 11	Glover

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Bellevue	30	40	H. & W. De
	255		H., C. and M
	480		

Vessel	At	Flag & Rtg.	Tons.	Captain	Owner
John William	Hongkong,	B. sh.	1609	Ashmunson	P. & O. S. N. Steam Co
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Wellington	"	B. bk.	473	Bennett	David Sasson, Burns & Co.
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